

The assessments for county charges, are most onerous upon the people, and as these are imposed upon each county levy, it will become necessary to examine into the condition of each to establish a general system. The officers and agents employed by Government should be reduced to the smallest number that can discharge the public duties: a greater number than this is a formidable evil. Exclusive of the increase of expense, the public business is often not so well done by many as by a few, and the patronage of the higher, and inferior branches of the government ought to be limited.

No maxim is more sound than that the fewer officers we have, the more distinct we render responsibility, and the less are the incentives to those combinations, intrigues and corruptions, which a lust for office and multiplicity of officers occasion. Where the number of county officers appointed by the Executive is left to Executive discretion; and where the number of other county officers, appointed by other tribunals, is left to the discretion of such tribunals, it is submitted to the legislature, how far it would be expedient to do away such discretion, and to limit the number in every case, by statute. An enquiry, how far it would be useful to substitute for one tribunal the two now in existence in most of the counties, in relation to the county assessments; how far greater accountability and economy could be introduced, in the support of the poor, and how far a reduction could be made in those expenses of our courts of justice, which fall upon the respective counties, would be worthy of your attention, and might produce the most salutary results. The statements annually made to the Legislature from the county court offices, would give much aid in this inquiry; and these, together with the general information possessed by each member, might lead to an investigation, and an improved system of things, that would facilitate the discharge of the public business and greatly reduce the burthens upon the people.

Applications are, occasionally, made to the executive by the deputies of the chief law officer of the State, to employ auxiliary counsel, in important criminal prosecutions, to vindicate and enforce the penal statutes; and instances are not wanting where the executive, in the exercise of its discretion, has yielded to such requests. A doubt has arisen how far this practice may be considered an interference with the official duties of the Attorney General, and, as the employment of such counsel has uniformly been a considerable charge upon the public treasury; how far it is proper to vest such general discretion in the executive, without